

Item No	Recommendation	Reported on Page No
Reporting of background should include		
1	Problem definition	4
2	Hypothesis statement	-
3	Description of study outcome(s)	7
4	Type of exposure or intervention used	4-6
5	Type of study designs used	5-7
6	Study population	6
Reporting of search strategy should include		
7	Qualifications of searchers (eg, librarians and investigators)	5, Title page
8	Search strategy, including time period included in the synthesis and key words	5, Table 1
9	Effort to include all available studies, including contact with authors	6
10	Databases and registries searched	6
11	Search software used, name and version, including special features used (eg, explosion)	6
12	Use of hand searching (eg, reference lists of obtained articles)	6
13	List of citations located and those excluded, including justification	8, Table 2, Fig 1
14	Method of addressing articles published in languages other than English	-
15	Method of handling abstracts and unpublished studies	6
16	Description of any contact with authors	6
Reporting of methods should include		
17	Description of relevance or appropriateness of studies assembled for assessing the hypothesis to be tested	6-8
18	Rationale for the selection and coding of data (eg, sound clinical principles or convenience)	6-8
19	Documentation of how data were classified and coded (eg, multiple raters, blinding and interrater reliability)	6-8
20	Assessment of confounding (eg, comparability of cases and controls in studies where appropriate)	7
21	Assessment of study quality, including blinding of quality assessors, stratification or regression on possible predictors of study results	6-7
22	Assessment of heterogeneity	7
23	Description of statistical methods (eg, complete description of fixed or random effects models, justification of whether the chosen models account for predictors of study results, dose-response models, or cumulative meta-analysis) in sufficient detail to be replicated	7-8
24	Provision of appropriate tables and graphics	Tables 2-7, Figs 2-7
Reporting of results should include		

25	Graphic summarizing individual study estimates and overall estimate	Figs 3-7
26	Table giving descriptive information for each study included	Table 2
27	Results of sensitivity testing (eg, subgroup analysis)	Fig 3, Table 3
28	Indication of statistical uncertainty of findings	12-16
Item No	Recommendation	Reported on Page No
Reporting of discussion should include		
29	Quantitative assessment of bias (eg, publication bias)	12, Fig 2
30	Justification for exclusion (eg, exclusion of non-English language citations)	6
31	Assessment of quality of included studies	6-7
Reporting of conclusions should include		
32	Consideration of alternative explanations for observed results	17-19
33	Generalization of the conclusions (ie, appropriate for the data presented and within the domain of the literature review)	20
34	Guidelines for future research	-
35	Disclosure of funding source	20